



Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

January 2003

## Homeland security tops DPS priority list for legislative session

When the 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature convenes Jan. 14, legislators will consider several additional funding requests from the Department. Topping the list that DPS is asking legislators to consider are items for homeland defense.

"We look forward to working with the Legislature on DPS funding for the next biennium," said Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.**, DPS director. "Our agency faces many challenges in the war against terrorism, as well as in our continuing efforts to protect Texas citizens. I know the Legislature will help us get the tools we need to do the job."

Included in the Homeland Defense request is funding for a Counter-Terrorism Bureau and an Intelligence Call Center, as well as implementing recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Committee and Governor's Task Force on Homeland Defense.

To cope with the additional commercial vehicle traffic caused by NAFTA, DPS has asked the Legislature to fund 97 additional License and Weight positions and to eventually increase the FTE cap to include 303 federally funded L&W positions along the Texas/Mexico border.

Other legislative funding priorities for DPS this session include:

- Salary for 170 Highway Patrol officers that will graduate at the end of this fiscal year.
- Reengineering driver licenses by rewriting all driver license software and replacing obsolete hardware. The reengineering would also incorporate additional security features—including biometrics—which will make the driver license and identification documents more verifiable.

The DL Division would create a Fraud Investigative Unit to probe

*Please see 78th Legislature on page 4*



Dear Fellow Employee,

The Texas Legislature convenes January 14th. During their 180-day stay in Austin, legislators will be considering a number of subjects, including many affecting the Department. DPS has asked for \$378,078,457 in funding for the agency in the first year of the biennium and \$376,377,768 in the second year.

On a related topic, we'll soon (if we haven't already) be receiving phone calls from legislators and their staffers for information on a variety of subjects. Please be sure to answer their questions promptly.

If you need further assistance in fulfilling a legislator's request, please contact Legislative Liaison **Michael Kelley** or his assistant, **Janie Smith**, at 512-424-7272.

• • • • •

As we enter 2003, I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous new year.

For employees that are currently serving, or who have a family member who is serving, in the military, our sincere appreciation for your service to our country. I look forward to working with each of you as we face the many challenges in 2003.

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

---

## Awards

---

Troopers **Monte Carroll**, HP Lampasas, and **Steven Marks**, HP Hamilton, and Sgt. **Stephen Bynum**, HP Lampasas, each received Director's Citations for their acts of bravery following the events of May 2, 2002. While assisting in the search of a murder suspect who had killed a Limestone County Deputy, two other officers were ambushed. Tr. **James Jones**, HP Goldthwaite, and Lampasas County Deputy Robert Montgomery had been shot and were severely injured. Tr. Carroll was with both men at the time of the shooting, managed to radio for help and directed Sgt. Bynum and an Armored Personnel Carrier to the scene. Using the APC as cover, Bynum and others rescued the wounded officers. Meanwhile, at a different location, Tr. Marks helped rescue a deputy who had been pinned down by gunfire. The shooter eventually killed himself.

### Update on Tr. James Jones

Tr. **James Jones**, HP Goldthwaite, continues to recover from injuries received during the ambush in Hamilton County. Amazingly, he returned to non-uniform light duty in October.

"He still has a long road to recovery," said Sgt. **Stephen Bynum**, HP Lampasas. "His courage has already been an inspiration to all of us. The Department's continued support will further enhance Tr. Jones' recovery."

**Dirk Moore**, Communications Victoria, received the "NABI Heart

*We want to thank everyone for their kindness and blessings during our time of loss and need. There are no words that can truly express our gratitude. Our hearts and spirits have been lifted by you—our DPS family.*

*There are so many of you who in many ways helped our family so much. We have been deeply touched.*

*Our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you. We count you in our blessings.*

*The parents of the twins*

*continue to cope with their loss. They have recently returned to work and are living in a temporary residence.*

*Thank you again for all that you have done and continue to do.*

*God Bless,*

*Joe and Frankie Thornton*

*Cindy Beshears\**

\*(Joe and Frankie are the grandparents of twins who died in an Austin-area fire recently. Cindy is the twins' aunt. All three are DPS employees.)

Award" from the National Association of Bunco Investigators. The award is the highest honor the group gives to individuals. Moore received the award in recognition of his accomplishments in the investigation of criminal Traveler activities in the U.S. and Canada.

---

## Short Shots

---

### Retirement news

If you know of someone that is planning on retiring on January 31, 2003 and being rehired on March 01, 2003, please read the following:

If you retire on January 31, 2003, you can not be rehired before March 3, 2003 or you will not be paid for your vacation time. Per state law, an employee who resigns, is dismissed, or otherwise separates from state employment is entitled to be paid for accrued and unused vacation time, as long as the employee has not been reemployed by a state agency within 30 days of such separation.

ration. Because February only has 28 days, a person cannot be rehired March 1 and meet this rule. Call 512-424-7297 for more info.

### Quarter Century Club meets

The next annual meeting of the DPS Quarter Century Club is set for Friday, April 4, 2003 at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin.

### Pelath completes course

Lt. **John Pelath**, Capitol Service, recently attended the 108<sup>th</sup> Administrative Officers Course at the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. This program is designed to assist in the development of police administrative and command personnel.

---

## Mile Markers

---

### Promotions

#### CLE

**Justin Bonner Owen**, Lt., MVT McAllen to Capt., MVT Austin.

#### TLE

**Richard Alan Diegelman**, Lt., HP Amarillo to Capt., HP Houston; **Jeffrey Paul Shipley**, Sen. Tr., HP New Caney to Sgt., Capt. Svc. Austin; **Policarpo Garcia, Jr.**, Cpl. IV, L&W Harlingen to Sgt., L&W Brownsville; **Billy Antonio Shelton**, Sgt., DL Baytown to Sgt., L&W Harlingen.

#### Director's Staff

**Gregory David Bourland**, Sgt., HP Austin to Sgt., Aircraft Austin.

### Retirements

**Carolyn Sue Ryan**, Adm. Tech II, TLE Austin, 22 yrs., 6 mos.; **Dudley Leroy Hooper**, Sen. Tr., HP Olney, 25 yrs., 5 mos., 23 days; **Jim Bob Cass**, Sen. Tr., L&W Queen City, 20 yrs., 8 mos., 21 days; **Richard Arlen Hall**, Adjutant, TLE Corpus Christi, 23 yrs., 9 mos., 25 days;

**Robert Thomas Nicholas**, Sen. Tr., L&W Austin, 27 yrs., 1 mo., 2 days; **Ronnie Lynn Porter**, Sen. Tr., L&W Carthage, 27 yrs., 9 mos., 19 days; **George Olivo**, Sgt., Narcotics, 30 yrs., 2 days; **Carolyn Janet Jurk**, Records Tech II, Narcotics Austin, 6 yrs., 5 mos., 28 days;

**Robin Hooper Wright**, Sen. Cpl., HP Kirbyville, 27 yrs., 1 mo., 1 day; **Joe Lee Crabtree**, Adjutant, TLE Midland, 10 yrs., 4 mos., 17 days; **Edith Johnson Dove**,

Adm. Tech. III, DL Fort Worth, 20 yrs., 4 mos., 22 days; **Robert Jack Sims**, Sen. Tr., HP Breckenridge, 20 yrs., 4 mos., 23 days;

**Wanda Ann Lynds**, Adm. Tech. II, DL Austin, 35 yrs., 1 mo.; **Max Eugene Gunn**, Sen. Cpl., L&W Childress, 32 yrs., 1 mo.; **Larry Dean Donaldson**, Sen. Cpl., DL Wichita Falls, 33 yrs., 2 mos., 25 days.

### Deaths

**Melvin Ray Avery**, ret. Lt., Narcotics Houston, (March 1969-Aug. 2001) died November 14, 2002; **James S. Moses**, ret. Pilot Investigator, Aircraft Houston, (April 1948-Jan. 1984) died July 30, 2002; **Alvin James Klima Jr.**, Building Program Administrator Austin, (Oct. 1975-Dec. 2002) died Dec. 9, 2002.

## DPS-sponsored car seat clinics scheduled for state's rural areas

DPS troopers who are trained and certified in child passenger safety will conduct 12 child safety seat clinics across rural Texas in 2002 and 2003. During the clinics, the troopers will inspect car seats for safety and educate parents and caregivers on the proper use of the seats.

Education is the most important goal of the clinics—the misuse rate of car seats inspected has been between 98 and 100 percent across the state.

“Two of the most common installation mistakes are the car seat not secured tightly in the vehicle and the harness straps fitting too loosely on the child,” said **Beth Warren**, DPS coordinator of occupant safety programs.

This is the program's second year.

DPS online: [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us)

Last year, troopers checked 460 car seats; only 19 were installed and/or used correctly. Funding for the clinics is provided by a grant received through the Texas Department of Transportation.

“The industry is striving to make car seat installation as easy as possible with the new LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) system, but the misuse rate is still high,” Warren said.

Here is a list of the scheduled clinics:

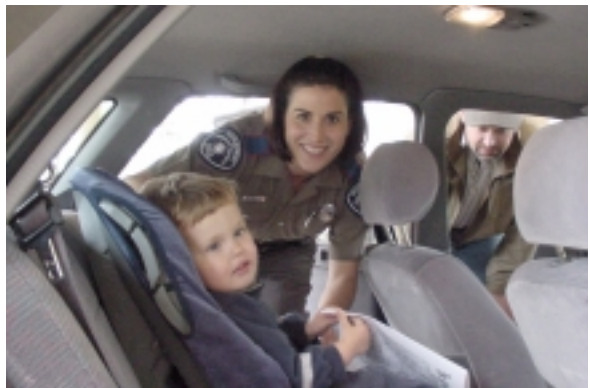
**February 8: Pleasanton**

**March 8: Rockdale**

**March 28: Hempstead**

**March 29: Navasota**

DPS “on the air”: 512-424-7777



**April 5: Copperas Cove**

**April 11: Jefferson**

**April 12: Carthage**

**April 12: Childress**

**April 26: Snyder**

**May 17: Levelland**

For more information on a specific clinic, please contact Beth Warren at (512) 424-5639 or [Beth.Warren@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:Beth.Warren@txdps.state.tx.us).

[askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us)

## Promotional exams set for February

*The following promotional examinations have been scheduled for the week of Feb. 10, at the DPS Regional offices.*

*Announcements for the examinations can be located in Microsoft Outlook: Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions.*

### **Monday, February 10,**

**1:30 p.m.**

Captain, Driver License  
Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft  
Regional Supervisor, Police Communications  
Regional Supervisor, Vehicle Inspection

### **Tuesday, February 11, 8 a.m.**

Captain, Capitol  
Lieutenant, Driver License  
Lieutenant, Texas Rangers

### **Tuesday, February 11,**

**1:30 p.m.**

Lieutenant, Capitol  
Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft  
Lieutenant, Narcotics

### **Wednesday, February 12,**

**8 a.m.**

Lieutenant, Safety Education  
Lieutenant, Aircraft  
Sergeant, Highway Patrol

### **Wednesday, February 12,**

**1:30 p.m.**

Sergeant, License and Weight  
Sergeant, Texas Rangers

### **Thursday, February 13,**

**8 a.m.**

Sergeant, Driver License  
Sergeant, Narcotics



### **Thursday, February 13,**

**1:30 p.m.**

Sergeant, Capitol  
Sergeant, Motor Vehicle Theft  
Supervisor, Police Communications Facility

**Application form HR-106 should be submitted to DPS Human Resources by mail, e-mail or fax by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 24, 2003. A copy should be submitted through channels to the appropriate service commander.**

## *DPS presents request to 78th Legislature, continued from page 1*

criminal activity involving fraudulent and counterfeit documents. This unit would also identify identity theft and prevent selling or tampering with documents.

- Adding CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) and Crime Laboratory employees to increase the number of cases that DPS labs across the state can process.

- Adding funding that would cover all of DPS's current operating expenses. For the past several years, our actual operating costs exceeded budgeted amounts.

- Fully funding the Texas Ranger Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team

that was created in the last session of the Legislature.



- Implementing a new Crash Records Information System to replace and automate the current manual Accident Records system.

- Implementing a three-year replacement schedule for the agency's computer equipment.

- Paying commissioned officers incentives for earning certain educational levels (associates, bachelors

and masters degrees) and TCLEOSE certificates (Intermediate, Advanced and Masters).

- Building a state-of-the-art police driving track at the Department's property in Florence. The track would enable the Department to train DPS officers in the safe and proper use of patrol vehicles in critical situations, at high speeds in a professional environment.

- Adding \$7.5 million for building construction.

- Adding Narcotics Service personnel to provide adequate controls and training for oversight of 49 multi-jurisdictional drug task forces.